

What is claimed is:

- 1. A software tool development system including:
 - a customer relaying customer tool requirements for a tool to a tool provider;
- a tool provider generating a custom tool based on the tool requirements received from the customer and storing the custom tool on a remote server accessible by the customer; and a remote server accessible by the customer wherein said remote server includes:
 - a database storing the custom tool;
 - a database for storage by users of the customer; and
 - a project database.
- 2. The system of claim 1 wherein said tool provider includes a system administrator for interpreting the tool requirements received from the customer and generating custom application specific tool requirements.
- 3. The system of claim 2 wherein said tool provider includes a number of system engineering software modules.
- 4. The system of claim 3 wherein said tool provider includes a development team receiving said custom application specific tool requirements and said system engineering software modules and generating a custom tool.

- 5. The system of claim 1 wherein said remote server further includes a "to approve" database for storage of project elements awaiting approval.
- 6. The system of claim 5 further including an approver at the customer for reviewing project elements stored in said approval database.
- 7. The system of claim 1 wherein said customer determines new features and transmits said new features to said tool provider.
- 8. The system of claim 7 wherein said tool provider modifies said custom tool based on said new features.
- 9. A method for supporting customer development using a custom software tool including the steps of:

relaying customer tool requirements for a custom software tool to a tool provider; generating, at a tool provider, a custom software tool based on the customer tool requirements;

storing said custom software tool on a remote server accessible by the customer; and supporting customer development using said custom software tool by providing a database for storage by users of the customer and a project database for storage of competed project elements.



- 10. The method of claim 9 wherein said generating step includes the step of generating a custom software tool using a system administrator for interpreting the tool requirements received from the customer and generating custom application specific tool requirements.
- 11. The method of claim 10 wherein said generating step includes the step of generating a custom software tool using a number of system engineering software modules.
- 12. The method of claim 11 wherein said generating step includes the step of generating a custom software tool using a development team receiving said custom application specific tool requirements and said system engineering software modules and generating a custom software tool.
- 13. The method of claim 9 wherein said supporting step further includes the step of providing a "to approve" database for storage of project elements awaiting approval.
- 14. The method of claim 13 wherein said supporting step further includes the step of approving project elements stored in said approval database
- 15. The method of claim 9 further including the step of transmitting new features for said custom software tool from said customer to said tool provider.
- 16. The method of claim 15 further including the step of modifying said custom software tool at the tool provider in response to said new features.



17. A project server for use in a software tool development system, said project server including:

storage for a custom software tool developed by a tool provider in response to customer tool requirements supplied by a customer;

storage for user data developed through the use of said custom software tool; storage for project elements awaiting approval; and storage for completed project elements.

- 18. The system of claim 17 wherein said tool provider includes a system administrator for interpreting the tool requirements received from the customer and generating custom application specific tool requirements.
- 19. The system of claim 18 wherein said tool provider includes a number of system engineering software modules.
- 20. The system of claim 19 wherein said tool provider includes a development team receiving said custom application specific tool requirements and said system engineering software modules and generating a custom tool.
- 21. The system of claim 17 wherein said project elements awaiting approval are reviewed by an approver at the customer.